

## Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

HEW-08 MED-03 IO-13 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

RSR-01 /144 W

----- 028701

R 230625Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6322

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: DOCTORS STRIKE BOMBAY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BOMBAY SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO  
CALCUTTA, MADRAS 22 AUG 73 REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1652

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: DOCTORS STRIKE BOMBAY

1. ON AUGUST 17, ABOUT 2,500 GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL  
DOCTORS, INTERNS AND REGISTRARS IN MAHARASHTRA INCLUDING  
1,500 IN BOMBAY, BEGAN INDEFINITE STRIKE FOR BETTER WAGES,  
HOUSING FACILITIES AND WORKING CONDITIONS. STRIKE,  
SPONSORED BY JUST CREATED MAHARASHTRA ASSOCIATION OF  
RESIDENT DOCTORS (MARD), HAS ADDED TO GROWING LABOR UNREST  
IN BOMBAY AREA. SEVEN BOMBAY HOSPITALS AFFECTED PROVIDE WELL  
OVER 50 PERCENT OF HOSPITAL MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY.

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THOUGH EMERGENCY CASES ARE STILL ACCEPTED, OPERATIONS IN THESE

HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CURTAILED.

2. GOM HAS TAKEN FIRM STAND AGAINST THE STRIKE, WHICH IT HAS TERMED ILLEGAL. ABOUT 25 STRIKING DOCTORS ARRESTED SO FAR. ON AUGUST 18, GOM DISCHARGED STRIKING DOCTORS EN MASSE AND ORDERED THEM VACATE THEIR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IMMEDIATE. ON AUGUST 20, POLICE ENFORCED EVICTION ORDER AMIDST WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY. SAME DAY GOM ISSUED 173 APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO PRIVATE DOCTORS TO REPLACE STRIKING DOCTORS. IN AUGUST 17 STATEMENT TO MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, GOM HEALTH MINISTER POINTED TO PRESENT GOM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND STATED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER STRIKING DOCTORS DEMANDS WHEN FINALIZING FIFTH FIVE-YEAR IN 1974.

3. PRESS AND PUBLIC APPEAR TO BE GENERALLY IN SYMPATHY WITH STRIKERS' DEMANDS, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH LIVING QUARTERS WHICH USUALLY NONEXISTENT OR EXTREMELY POOR. SALARIES ALSO VERY LOW. DOCTORS EARN RS. 250-600 MONTHLY; INTERNS RS.150-200. DOCTORS IN SIX BOMBAY PRIVATE HOSPITALS ON TWO DAY SYMPATHY STRIKE. DENTISTS IN BOMBAY'S TWO GOVERNMENT-RUN DENTAL HOSPITALS WILL BEGIN THREE DAY SYMPATHY STRIKE THURSDAY. STUDENTS IN FOUR OF BOMBAY MEDICAL COLLEGES HAVE LEFT CLASSES AS SIGN OF SUPPORT. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT MANY DOCTORS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GOM APPOINTMENT LETTERS REFUSING TO WORK. MARD HAS OBTAINED COURT INJUNCTION AGAINST GOM EVICTION. GOM HAS APPEALED TO HIGH COURT TO VACATE INJUNCTION.

4. COMMENT: PAUCITY OF GOM RESOURCES IN FACE PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, CONCERN OVER INFLATION AND POSSIBILITY OTHER MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (I. E. NURSES, SWEEPERS) MAY PRESENT SIMILAR DEMANDS SHOULD STRIKE SUCCEED ARE PROBABLY MAJOR GOM CONSIDERATIONS IN REFUSING RECOGNIZE STRIKE. HOWEVER, GIVEN WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT MARD STRIKE HAS RECEIVED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR GOM TO RESIST SERIOUSLY SOME COMPROMISE WITH STRIKING DOCTORS' DEMANDS.  
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UNQUOTE  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005